

**MINUTES**  
**POLK STATE COLLEGE**  
**District Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**Monday, November 17, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Polk State Center for Public Safety CPS 267**

Chair Ann Barnhart called the November 17, 2025, District Board of Trustees Special Meeting to order at approximately 3:09 p.m.

**Members Present:** Ms. Ann Barnhart, Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett, Mr. Steve Lester, Mr. Greg Littleton, Ms. Teresa Martinez, Ms. Cindy Hartley Ross, and Mr. Ashley Troutman

**Members Absent:**

**Agenda:**

Mr. Littleton moved, seconded by Ms. Bell Barnett, to approve the agenda for November 17, 2025. All members voted affirmatively.

**Public Comment:**

Chair Barnhart announced that there was one person who signed up for public comment. Ms. Jennifer Shaw, biology professor, addressed the Board on behalf of Dr. William Caldecutt.

**Recommendation for the Termination of Dr. William Caldecutt**

Attorney Don Wilson stated that this meeting has been called to order to vote on the recommendation for the termination of Dr. William Caldecutt. Dr. Caldecutt could have requested a hearing, but he did not so he waived his opportunity. Attorney Mark Levitt was in attendance on behalf of Polk State College and Attorney Alison Steele was in attendance on behalf of Dr. Caldecutt. Each of the attorneys had 20 minutes to address the Board.

Mr. Levitt reserved seven (7) minutes for his rebuttal and then spoke on behalf of the College in their decision to recommend the termination of Dr. Caldecutt. He reviewed documentation that all the trustees were given in advance and covered five out of six criteria where Dr. Caldecutt did not meet the standard. He also mentioned that Dr. Caldecutt had 21 days to file for a full evidentiary hearing but did not. At that time, Dr. Caldecutt would have been able to present witnesses and exhibits and cross-examine college employees before a judge.

Attorney Alison Steele reserved ten (10) minutes to allow Dr. Caldecutt to speak. Ms. Steele then spoke on behalf of Dr. Caldecutt regarding his final evaluation.

Dr. Caldecutt addressed the Board for ten (10) minutes while reviewing a PowerPoint presentation which included background on completion rates versus pass rates.

Mr. Levitt then provided his rebuttal in his last seven (7) minutes he was allowed.

Chair Barnhart called for a motion to accept the recommendation for termination of Dr. William Caldecutt. Ms. Ross moved, seconded by Ms. Teresa Martinez, to accept the recommendation for termination of Dr. William Caldecutt.

After Board discussion of the trustees, Chair Barnhart took roll call to vote on the recommendation. The voting went as such:

Mr. Greg Littleton – Yes  
Ms. Cindy Ross – Yes  
Mr. Steve Lester – Yes  
Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett – No  
Ms. Teresa Martinez – Yes  
Mr. Ashley Troutman – No  
Chair Ann Barnhart - Yes

The recommendation for termination of Dr. William Caldecutt was approved 5-2.

**Adjournment:**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:19 p.m.

 11/23/26  
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Ms. Ann Barnhart Date  
DBOT Chair

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Dr. Anne B. Kerr Date  
Interim President